Converses of conditionals

In this lesson we'll look at how to write a converse statement from a conditional.

Conditionals and converses

We learned in the last section that a conditional statement is an if/then statement where the first part is the hypothesis and the second part is the conclusion. They're written like this:

"If A, then B."

A **converse statement** flips around the if/then from the conditional. So instead of "If A, then B," the converse says

"If B, then A."

Let's look at an example.

Example

Write the converse of the statement.

"If it snows, then they cancel school."

A converse statement flips around the if/then from the conditional. So we flip the places of "canceling school" and "snow."

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Conditional: "If **it snows**, then **they cancel school**."

Converse: "If **they cancel school**, then **it snows**."

Notice that the conditional statement makes sense and could possibly be true. But this converse doesn't really make sense because cancelling school doesn't necessarily mean it will snow.

Let's look at another example.

Example

What is the conditional statement represented in the Euler diagram? What is its converse?

This diagram is of the form:

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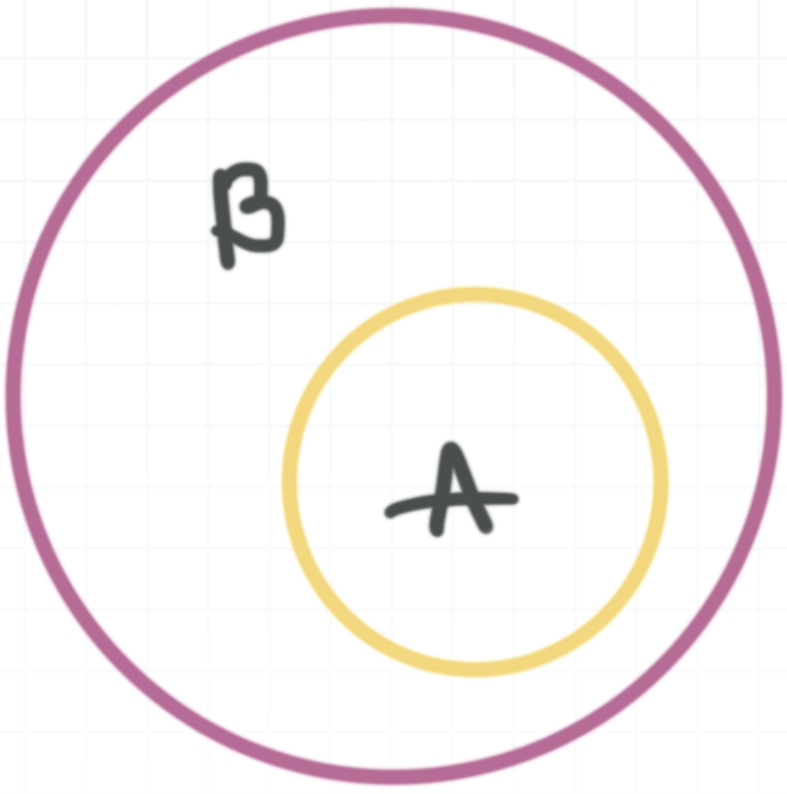
"If A, then B."



This means the conditional statement is:

"If it's a rectangle, then it has two pairs of parallel sides."

For the converse, we switch the places of what goes with the if and the then.

Conditional: "If **it's a rectangle**, then **it has two pairs of parallel sides**."

Converse: "If **it has two pairs of parallel sides**, then **it's a rectangle**."

Notice that the converse is not always true. A shape that has two pairs of parallel sides could be any parallelogram, not necessarily a rectangle.

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